

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3809

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 8342

E.O. 1165-2: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: REACTIONS OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO JUAN CARLOS REGIME

REF: MADRID 7759

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. REACTIONS OF SPANISH OPPOSITION TO JUAN CARLOS REGIME AND ITS FIRST MEASURES APPEAR TO VACILLATE BETWEEN EXPECTATION AND DISAPPOINTMENT IN DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION, AND OUTRIGHT REJECTION BY COMMUNIST PARTY. END SUMMARY.

2. JUAN CARLOS NOV 22 INVESTITURE SPEECH RAISED MIXTURE OF QUIET EXPECTATION AND DISAPPOINTMENT AMONG MODERATE OPPOSITION. MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT OPPOSITION GROUPS, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SOME OF KING'S PHRASES MAY WELL HAVE CONSTITUTED SIGNALS OR LIBERAL INTENTIONS, NONETHELESS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH SPEECH AS TIMID ONE WHICH OFFERED NOTHING CONCRETE IN WHICH OPPOSITION COULD PLACE SOME HOPE.

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3. SINCE NEW KING'S INSTALLATION, VARIOUS OPPOSITION

GROUPS AND COALITIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUING STATEMENTS, AND OTHERS PLAN TO DO SO IN NEAR FUTURE. ALL SUCH STATEMENTS APPEAR TO BE NEGATIVE IN VARYING DEGREES TOWARDS NEW KING AND HIS REGIME, WHICH OPPOSITION IS BEGINNING TO CHARACTERIZE IN PUBLIC AS CONTINUISM, ALTHOUGH NOT CLOSING THE DOOR ON JUAN CARLOS.

4. TYPICAL AND AMONG MOST NEGATIVE WERE SEPARATE NOV 23 STATEMENTS BY ILLEGAL SOCIALIST PSOE PARTY AND OF SOCIALIST UGT TRADE UNION. THE LATTER CHARACTERIZED KING'S SPEECH AS WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL CONTENT, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON "FIRMNESS AND PRUDENCE" AND DESIGNED BY AN IMPOSED KING TO TRANQUILIZE DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE REGIME WITHOUT MANIFESTING ANY WILL TO DEMOCRATIZE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, THEREBY SEEKING TO PERPETUATE FRANCOISM WITHOUT FRANCO.

5. ON NOV 20, DATE OF FRANCO'S DEATH, MADRID CHAPTERS OF BOTH COMMUNIST-MANIPULATED "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" AND RIVAL NON-COMMUNIST "PLATAFORMA DE CONVERGENCIA" COALITIONS ISSUED JOINT STATEMENT WHICH LARGELY REITERATED POSITION EXPRESSED IN JOINT DOCUMENT OF TWO COALITIONS AT NATIONAL LEVEL ON OCTOBER 30 (REF), WITH RESPECT TO DEMANDS FOR IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS AND OF A CONSTITUENT PROCESS. STATEMENT ADDED FRANCO'S DEATH CREATED NEW POLITICAL CONDITIONS AND RADICAL WEAKENING OF REGIME, THUS OPENING POSSIBILITY FOR CONSTITUENT PROCESS.

7. ON NOV 24 AND 25, NATIONAL COMMITTEES OF BOTH "JUNTA" AND "PLATAFORMA" REPORTEDLY MET FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAWING UP MUCH MORE COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT SETTING FORTH JOINT POSITION RE JUAN CARLOS REGIME. THERE WAS REPORTEDLY MUCH PRESSURE BY PCE FOR ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENT RADICAL IN TONE. IN END, DUE TO DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN VARIOUS OPPOSITION GROUPS REPRESENTED AS WELL AS DESIRE SOME REPRESENTATIVE TO AWAIT DEVELOPMENT AND TO ISSUE A MORE MODERATELY-WORDED AND WELL-REASONED DOCUMENT, IT WAS AGREED TO POSTPONE FURTHER MEETINGS UNTIL NEXT WEEK.

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8. ADDITIONALLY, OTHER INDICATIONS OF PAST FEW DAYS ARE ADDING TO GROWING OPPOSITION DISAPPOINTMENT, SUCH AS DISILLUSIONMENT WITH YESTERDAY'S "INDULTO" OR COMMUTATION OF SENTENCES. PSOE LAWYER ALSO TOLD LABATT YESTERDAY TWO PSOE MILITANTS WERE ARRESTED IN NORTHERN PORT CITY OF GIJON AND THAT CURRENT ISSUE OF PRESTIGIOUS MONTHLY OPPOSITION-ORIENTED MAGAZINE "CUADERNOS PARA EL DIALOGO" HAD A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT PAGES PROHIBITED BY GOS.

AT MINIMUM SOURCE CLAIMED KING WAS STARTING TO DISSIPATE IN HIS
EARLY DAYS POTENTIAL GOOD WILL OF MUCH OF MODERATE OPPOSITION.

9. COMMENT: THESE OPPOSITION STATEMENTS CAN BE PARTIALLY
VIEWED AS PRESSURE TACTICS AGAINST KING'S NEW REGIME IN HOPE
OF PERHAPS FORCING HIM TO COMMENCE MAKING RAPID CHANGES.
ADDITIONALLY THEY ARE SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE IN
NATURE, IN VIEW OF CONSTANT ACTIVITY OF PCE AND OF PERSONAGES
SUCH AS PCE SEC GEN SANTIAGO CARRILLO REJECTING TOTALLY JUAN
CARLOS REGIME. DESPITE THESE STATEMENTS AND INCREASING
DISAPPOINTMENT WITH KING'S INITIAL ACTIONS, MODERATE
DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION STILL MAINTAINS SOMETHING OF "WAIT-AND-
SEE" ATTITUDE AND, DESPITE THEIR RHETORIC, ARE STILL DISPOSED
TO JUDGE NEW REGIME BY ITS FURTHER ACTIONS (E.G.,
TO WHAT EXTENT IMPORTANT POLITICAL PRISONERS MAY BE FREED
UNDER "INDULTO", WHAT KIND OF A PROGRAM KING'S NEW GOVT
WILL ANNOUNCE, WHETHER THERE WILL BE ANY NOTICEABLE EASING
UP OF GOVT RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR ACTIVITY). TO DATE, THE
ONLY GROUPS WHICH HAVE ATTACHED JUAN CARLOS PERSONALLY
AND REJECTED A JUAN CARLOS REGIME UNDER ANY AND ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES ARE PCE AND ITS ALLIES ON COMMUNIST-
MANIPULATED "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA". IN MEANTIME PCE CAN BE
EXPECTED TO DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO FORCE DEMOCRATIC
OPPOSITION INTO A MORE RADICAL POSTURE AGAINST THE NEW
REGIME.
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